

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, those two gifted dreamers, the Wright Brothers, hardly could have visualized in those first struggling pioneer days that their discovery would play a major role in shaping the fate of mankind. Aviation has been underscored by a dramatic series of epoch-making achievements, but the keynote to peaceful aeronautical commerce probably can be traced to the development of airmail service, the first practical application of flight to economic and social progress; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Post Office in August of 1920, quick to recognize the need to facilitate air mail delivery, created a network of fewer than two dozen airway radio stations. Stopping to deposit or pick up their mail sacks, air mail pilots received weather reports, departure and arrival times, and administrative messages from government radio operators, who relayed aviation information across the country; and

WHEREAS, this tiny network has grown to a sophisticated communications system with instant, accurate access to whatever information a pilot needs to know; and

WHEREAS, today, these facilities function as Flight Service Stations within the framework of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation. Particularly serving the private pilot, Flight Service Specialists provide airmen with scientific weather data, information about navigational aids and airports, and offer a wide range of other aeronautical services. Through the modern communications equipment available to them, flight service specialists keep pilots in immediate touch with all conditions affecting their flight. If need be, they can usually locate pilots who are lost or otherwise in trouble and get them safely home; and

WHEREAS, the Flight Service Station also functions as the civilian partner with all military aviation operating within the continental limits of the United States. It serves as the connector between FAA's Air Route Traffic Control sectors and the many military flights that take place daily; and

WHEREAS, from an ambitious beginning 50 years ago, the system now includes 384 separate Flight Service Stations in 49 states and nine international facilities. Four of the original stations are still in continuous operation in Washington, D.C., Salt Lake City, Utah, Rock Spring, Wyoming, and Elko, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the Flight Service Station system was established on August 20, 1920 and after 50 years of serving the public and the aviation community, the system and the dedicated personnel who operate it should be recognized;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Frank L. Farrar, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby designate the week beginning August 16, 1970 as

Flight Service Week

and I urge all State and local officials to assist in holding appropriate ceremonies during the week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of South Dakota to be affixed this 19th day of August, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and seventy.

*Frank L. Farrar*  
FRANK L. FARRAR, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Alma Larson*  
ALMA LARSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

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